

Question: Why do you need federal legislation to protect intelligence personnel? Are state and local law enforcement agencies unwilling or unable to investigate and prosecute attacks against intelligence personnel?

Answer: There are two reasons we support federal legislation protecting intelligence personnel.

First, we believe it is only fair to provide federal protection to all federal employees who are subject to attack as a result of carrying out important federal functions. In this regard we believe that intelligence personnel deserve the same federal protection provided to employees of the Postal Service and the Department of Agriculture.

Second, while we cannot say that state and local law enforcement agencies are unwilling or unable to investigate attacks on intelligence personnel, we do believe that the FBI can bring the highest expertise to an investigation in this area. Also, attacks on intelligence personnel may involve counterintelligence issues that are the responsibility of the FBI.